

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 OES-05 FEA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5588

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DEPT PASS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES

REF: (A) TOKYO 11806, (B) TOKYO 17858, (C) STATE 294299

SUMMARY: THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A DECISION TO REVISE EXISTING ORDINANCES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION CONCERNING DISPOSAL OF WASTES CONTAINING POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) AND OTHER ORGANIC CHLORINE COMPOUNDS. REVISION IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR DISPOSAL OF SUCH TOXIC WASTES THROUGH LAND RECLAMATION OR OCEAN DUMPING. END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 16, THE GOJ CABINET DECIDED TO REVISE ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL AND CLEANSING LAW AND MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION LAW IN ORDER TO SET STANDARDS FOR DISPOSAL OF WASTES CONTAINING PCBS AND ORGANIC CHLORINE COMPOUNDS THROUGH LANDFILL OR OCEAN DUMPING. REVISED ORDINANCES WILL BE PROMULGATED AROUND DECEMBER 20 AND PUT INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 1, 1976.

2. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) AND BEEN WORKING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCES SINCE LAST MARCH WHEN REPORT ON METHODS
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OF WASTE DISPOSAL WAS FILED BY DIVISION ON WASTE DISPOSAL OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION.

3. REVISED ORDINANCES WILL PROVIDE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

(1) TELEVISION SETS, MICROWAVE OVENS, AND AIR CONDITIONERS EQUIPPED WITH CONDENSERS CONTAINING PCBS WHICH ARE DISCARDED BY ORDINARY HOUSEHOLDS SHALL NOT RPT NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN LAND RECLAMATION OPERATIONS OR DUMPED INTO THE OCEAN. THEY SHALL BE COLLECTED BY MUNICIPALITIES AND TRANSFERRED TO "ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT PCB DISPOSAL ASSOCIATION" FOR INCINERATION:

(2) NO-CARBON PAPER CONTAINING PCBS, ALREADY RECOVERED BY FOUR MAJOR MANUFACTURERS OR KEPT IN CUSTODY BY MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SHALL BE INCINERATED BY THE "OLD NO-CARBON PAPER INCINERATION ASSOCIATION."

(3) PCB LIUIDS OR WASTE OIL CONTAINING PCBS BEING KEPT IN CUSTODY BY TWO MANUFACTURERS (MITSUBISHI MONSANTO CHEMICAL CO. AND KANEGAFUCHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO.) SHALL BE INCINERATED;

(4) IN DISPOSING OF ALL THESE MATERIALS, PCB CONCENTRATION IN ASH SHALLNOT EXCEED 0.003 PPM;

(5) SLUDGES DISCHARGED FROM OLD PAPER REGENERATION FACILITIES OR RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH CONTAIN MORE THAN 0.003 PPM OF PCBS CANNOT BE USED FOR RECLAMATION UNLESS THEY ARE SERGREGATED BY WALLS MADE OF CONCRETE OR OTHER SIMILAR MATERIAL;

(6) OCEAN DUMPING OF SLUDGES CONTAINING ORGANIC CHLORINE COMPOUNDS (SUCH AS TRICHOLORETHYLENE, CHLOROMETHANE AND CHLOROBENZENE) IS NOT PERMITTED EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THE CONCENTRATION OF SUCH COMPOUNDS IN SLUDGES IS LESS THAN 40 PPM AND THAT IN WASTE ACID AND WASTE ALKALI LESS THAN 8 PPM.

4. CALL FOR REVISION OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL LAW ALSO CAME FROM A GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL. ON DECEMBER 11, THE COUNCIL ON THE LIVING ENVIORNMENT, ADVISORY ORGAN FOR THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, CAME OUT WITH REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT THE LAW IN QUESTION BE REVISED TO TIGHTEN PENALTIES AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE RESORTED TO ILLEGAL MEAN S OF WASTE DISPOSAL.

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NOTING THAT THE LAW HAS A NUMBER OF LOOPHOLES, THE COUCIL RECOMMENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT NEW PROVISIONS FOR PUNISHMENT BE INSTITUTED AGAINST ENTERPRISES THAT HAVE ASKED UNLICENSED DISPOSAL BUSINESS OPERATORS TO DISPOSE OF THEIR WASTES, OR AGAINST OPERATORS THAT HAVE ILLEGALLY DISPOSED OF WASTES. THE GROUP ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE RELEVANT LAW SHOULD BE SO REVISED THAT THOSE WHO HAVE ILLEGALLY DISPOSED OF WASTES THROUGH LANDFILL OPERATIONS MUST RESTORE BURIAL SITES TO ORIGINAL STATE.

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